



## Chief's Update January 26, 2015

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

This past weekend, our annual Tempe Police/Fire flag football game was held at Tempe High School. The game – a tradition for well over a decade – began as a small pick-up game between personnel from the police and fire departments who routinely worked together as their shifts coincided. Throughout the years, the game grew in size – family members and co-workers of the participants would come to offer support and watch – and the game came to signify something more, something special...that bond between public safety professionals as one big family; a family whose members understand the challenges, stressors, tragedies, and successes we, as public safety professionals, face on a daily basis.

Unlike in years past, this year, the game stood for - and meant - much more. This year, the game was used as a fundraising opportunity to raise funds for our Publics Safety Memorial to honor those Tempe public safety professionals – both police and fire – who *answered the call* and *made the ultimate sacrifice*.

A success on many levels, this year's event brought together our large and extended public safety family in a manner which allowed for bonding, camaraderie, support for one another, and of course, spirited competition.

Everyone I have spoken to truly enjoyed the event and it would not have been as successful without the hard work, dedication, and support of the countless police and fire employees and volunteers, the TOA and IAFF, the Tempe Police Foundation, Tempe High School and the Tempe Union High School District, our various sponsors, members of the Tempe City Council, and the athletes themselves.

In closing, whether our preferred color is police blue or fire red, when the call comes in, we all come together to save lives, protect one another, and keep our community safe.

I look forward to next year's game!

Stay Safe,

Tom Ryff  
Chief of Police





